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REMARKS

Claims 1-12 remain pending in the present application. Applicant acknowledges the Office's allowance of claims 1-3.

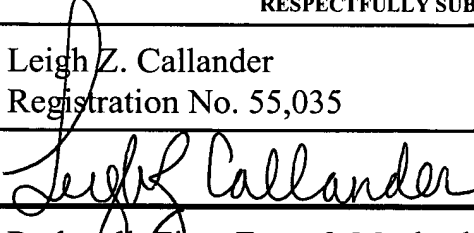
On January 15, 2004, Applicant faxed to the Examiner proposed amendments to claims 4, 7 and 10, which the Examiner had agreed at that time placed the claims in condition for allowance. Applicant subsequently filed a Supplemental Response on January 16, 2004 formally amending claims 4, 7, and 10. On April 7, 2004, the Examiner issued a final Office Action, after which Applicant's attorney telephoned the Examiner to discuss the same. Applicant's attorney thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of the interview and, as agreed during the interview, claims 4, 7 and 10 have been amended herewith in an effort to advance prosecution of this application. Applicant assumes then that claims 4, 7 and 10 are in condition for allowance, and Applicant thus respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of this application.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 4-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because excluding the mode of action "formation of glycation endproducts or protein cross linking"—according to the Office—resulted in the introduction of new matter. Applicant has amended claims 4, 7, and 10 above. Claims 5-6 depend from newly amended claim 4, claims 8-9

depend from newly amended claim 7, and claims 11-12 depend from newly amended claim 10. The rejection thus has been overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to expedite allowance of this application.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
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